WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. An object-oriented method of collecting information regarding a plurality of target
applications in an application unit, comprising the steps of:

receiving from a first one of the plurality of target applications through an interface,
by a monitoring device, a request to send first information regarding monitored usage of the
first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination through a
first communication protocol using a first data format; and

receiving from a second one of the plurality of target applications through the
interface, by the monitoring device, a request to send second information regarding monitored
usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second predetermined
destination through a second communication protocol using a second data format, wherein the
first communication protocol is different from the second communication protocol.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein

the first data format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated
format and eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format, and

the first communication protocol includes one of Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
(SMTP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and local disk.

3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first data format is different from
the second data format.

4. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

formatting the first information into first formatted data according to the first data
format;

sending the first formatted data to the first predetermined destination through the first
communication protocol;

formatting the second information into second formatted data according to the second
data format; and

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sending the second formatted data to the second predetermined destination through the second communication protocol.

5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the step of formatting the first information includes

creating a first software class having a declared virtual function;

creating a second software class derived from the first software class having a first definition of the declared virtual function; and

creating a first formatted information software object.

6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the step of creating the first formatted information software object includes

formatting first formatted information according to one of comma separated format and XML format.

7. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the step of sending the first formatted data includes

creating a third software class derived from the first software class having a second definition of the declared virtual function; and

creating a first formatted data software object.

8. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the step of creating a first formatted data software object includes

formatting first formatted data according to one of binary format and text format.

9. An object-oriented system for collecting information regarding a plurality of target applications in an application unit, the system comprising:

a monitoring device configured to receive from a first one of the plurality of target applications through an interface, a request to send first information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination through a first communication protocol using a first data format, and to receive from a second

one of the plurality of target applications through the interface, a request to send second information regarding monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second predetermined destination through a second communication protocol using a second data format, wherein the first communication protocol is different from the

5   second communication protocol.

10. The system according to Claim 9, wherein

the first data format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated format and XML format, and

10   the first communication protocol includes one of SMTP, FTP and local disk.

11. The system according to Claim 9, wherein the first data format is different from the second data format.

15   12. The system according to Claim 9, further comprising:

a device configured to format the first information into first formatted data according to the first data format;

a device configured to send the first formatted data to the first predetermined destination through the first communication protocol;

20   a device configured to format the second information into second formatted data according to the second data format; and

a device configured to send the second formatted data to the second predetermined destination through the second communication protocol.

25   13. The system according to Claim 12, wherein the device configured to format the first information includes

a device configured to create a first software class having a declared virtual function;

a device configured to create a second software class derived from the first software class having a first definition of the declared virtual function; and

30   a device configured to create a first formatted information software object.

14. The system according to Claim 13, wherein the device configured to create the first formatted information software object includes

a device configured to format first formatted information according to one of comma separated format and XML format.

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15. The system according to Claim 13, wherein the device configured to send the first formatted data includes

a device configured to create a third software class derived from the first software class having a second definition of the declared virtual function; and

10   a device configured to create a first formatted data software object.

16. The system according to Claim 15, wherein the device configured to create the first formatted data software object includes

a device configured to format first formatted data according to one of binary format

15   and text format.

17. A program product for collecting information regarding a plurality of target applications in an application unit, the program product comprising a computer readable medium embodying program instructions for causing an object-oriented system to perform

20   the steps of:

receiving from a first one of the plurality of target applications through an interface, by a monitoring device, a request to send first information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination through a first communication protocol using a first data format; and

25   receiving from a second one of the plurality of target applications through the interface, by the monitoring device, a request to send second information regarding monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second predetermined destination through a second communication protocol using a second data format, wherein the first communication protocol is different from the second communication protocol.

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18. The program product according to Claim 17, wherein

the first data format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated format and XML format, and

the first communication protocol includes one of SMTP, FTP and local disk.

19. The program product according to Claim 17, wherein the first data format is different from the second data format.

20. The program product according to Claim 17, wherein the program instructions cause the system to further perform the steps of:

formatting the first information into first formatted data according to the first data format;

sending the first formatted data to the first predetermined destination through the first communication protocol;

formatting the second information into second formatted data according to the second data format; and

sending the second formatted data to the second predetermined destination through the second communication protocol.

21. The program product according to Claim 20, wherein the step of formatting the first information includes

creating a first software class having a declared virtual function;

creating a second software class derived from the first software class having a first definition of the declared virtual function; and

creating a first formatted information software object.

22. The program product according to Claim 21, wherein the step of creating the first formatted information software object includes

formatting first formatted information according to one of comma separated format and XML format.

23. The program product according to Claim 21, wherein the step of sending the first formatted data includes

creating a third software class derived from the first software class having a second definition of the declared virtual function; and

5   creating a first formatted data software object.

24. The program product according to Claim 23, wherein the step of creating the first formatted data software object includes

formatting first formatted data according to one of binary format and text format.

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